# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:203
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
TELE DENSITY IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS
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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the rural tele-density is extremely low as compared to the urban tele-density in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the tele-density of rural and urban areas during the current year;and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to remove the disparity of tele-density between the rural and urban areas?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) As compared to urban tele-density,rural tele-density in the country is low.The details are furnished below:

| | As on 31.03.2008 | As on 31.08.2008 |
|---|---|---|
| Rural tele-density | 9.46% | 11.18% |
| Urban tele-density | 66.39% | 74.33% |
| Overall tele-density | 26.22% | 29.83% |

(c) The following steps are taken/being taken by the Government to improve the tele-density in rural areas:

(i) Support from universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).

(ii) A scheme has been launched by USO Fund to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 states, for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage in the country.Also, about 11000 number of additional infrastructure sites (towers) are proposed to be installed in the second phase.

(iii) Relaxation of norms by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for laying cable upto 5 kms of exchanges against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms based on demand and techno-commercial consideration.

(iv) Large-scale deployment of WLL network by BSNL in rural areas.

(v) Deployment of Mobile Network along all the Highways by BSNL to give incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas.

(vi) Remote and far-flung areas,which are not possible to be covered with terrestrial technology,are planned by BSNL to be covered with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs).

(vii) In addition to the efforts made by BSNL,the private operators are also offering their services to meet the demand for telephone.